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# INDEX OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND INTEGRATION GROUPINGS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: MEMBERSHIP AND OBJECTIVES

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

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## I. PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS

### *A. Africa*

*1. Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)*

1. AMU was established on 17 February 1989 and it is comprised of Algeria, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The main goals of the AMU are to safeguard Maghrebian economic interests and to foster and promote economic and cultural co-operation among its member States for their mutual development and benefit.

*2. Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC)*

2. UDEAC, established in December 1964 by the Brazzaville Treaty, includes the following member States: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. Non-processed agricultural products originating in any member State circulate in the Union free of customs duties. Industrial products are subject to a regime of single tax which is levied in the country where the factory is located and repaid to the consumer countries in proportion to deliveries. Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Gabon operate a common external tariff, which is to be extended to Chad and Equatorial Guinea.

*3. Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC)*

3. CEEAC, established in 1983, includes the following member States: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Principe and Zaïre. The Community aims at the liberalization of mutual trade and the setting up of a common external tariff. CEEAC established a clearing house in February 1989.

*4. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)*

4. ECOWAS, established by the Treaty of Lagos in May 1975, includes the following member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The ECOWAS trade liberalization programme provides for total free trade in unprocessed goods and the gradual elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers on mutual trade in manufactured products over a period. This programme was launched on 1 January 1990.

*5. West African Economic Community (CEAO)*

5. CEAO, established by the Treaty of Abidjan in May 1973, includes the following member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. Since 1974, unprocessed goods originating in any member State circulate in the zone free of all import duties and charges (except internal taxes) as well as of all quantitative restrictions. Industrial products benefit from a preference system based on replacement of import duties and charges by the "regional co-operation tax" (TCR). However, the above preferential measure is only applied to products and manufacturing enterprises which have been specifically approved by the Council of Ministers. Since 1979, trade in industrial products originating in the Community has in principle been freed from quantitative restrictions. CEAO also intents to establish a common external tariff.

*6. Mano River Union (MRU)*

6. Mano River Union, established in October 1973, includes Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. A common external tariff was introduced by Liberia and Sierra Leone in 1977, and its extension to Guinea is envisaged. Trade between Liberia and Sierra Leone was liberalized in May 1981 for specified goods of local origin and Guinea was later incorporated into the trade liberalization scheme.

*7. Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL)*

7. Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire formed the CEPGL in September 1976. Member countries presently authorize the import export of goods within the CEPGL through the use of CEPGL import export notices. A monetary agreement has also been signed by the central banks of member States allowing for settlement of commercial transactions within the CEPGL.

READEX

*8. Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA)*

8. PTA, established in June 1982, includes the following member States: Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Somalia, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, the Treaty for the establishment of the PTA remains open for signature and ratification by Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique and the Seychelles. The PTA has as its principal objective the reduction and eventual elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers among member States. The gradual establishment of a common external tariff on imports from third countries is also planned. As a first step towards this objective, the PTA has prepared a common list of commodities of export import interest to member States for which a programme of tariff reductions has been designed. The removal of non-tariff barriers on imports of products included in the common list is also envisaged. The PTA clearing house has been established in Harare, Zimbabwe.

*9. Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC)*

9. SADCC includes the following member countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Conference was first held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in July 1979. At the subsequent Summit Conference in April 1980 in Lusaka, the member countries signed the declaration "Southern Africa: towards economic liberation" and adopted a programme of action for development co-operation in Southern Africa in such areas as transport and communications, regional food security, agricultural research and disease control, harmonization of industrial and energy policies and training. The SADCC is also engaged in trade promotion activities.

***B. Latin America and the Caribbean***

*1. Latin American Integration Association (ALADI)*

10. ALADI replaced the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA), which was established in 1960, when the Montevideo Treaty constituting it come into force in March 1981. It includes the following member: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. ALADI aims to establish an area of economic preferences comprising of, *inter alia* a regional tariff preference, partial scope trade agreements, and economic complementarity agreements. In the longer term, ALADI aims to establish a common market.

*2. Andean Group*

11. The Andean Group, established in May 1969 by the Cartagena Agreement, includes the following member countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. The Group implements a trade liberalization programme providing for the elimination of all tariff charges and quantitative restrictions with respect to products originating in the Andean Group member countries, initially scheduled to be achieved at the end of 1983. Bolivia and Ecuador, as less developed members, were granted a longer period (up to 1989). The above-mentioned agreement also includes the implementation of a common external tariff for imports from third countries. The trade liberalization programme was later rescheduled and the member States are expected to complete the liberalization process by 31 December 1995 and approve a common external tariff by 31 December 1999.

*3. Central American Common Market (CACM)*

12. CACM, established in June 1961, includes the following members: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. CACM introduced free trade amongst member countries. Goods circulating in the zone are in principle exempt from customs duties, additional fiscal charges and quantitative restrictions. The Central American Clearing House was created to facilitate intra-regional payments. A common external tariff covering all but few items is applied to CACM imports from third countries.

*4. Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*

13. CARICOM replaced the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA), which was established in May 1967, when the Treaty constituting CARICOM, the Treaty of Chaguaramas, was signed in July 1973 by CARIFTA member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago. All the member States, except Bahamas which joined CARICOM only in 1983, participate in the Common Market, applying the Common External Tariff (CET) and allowing for the free movement of goods within the Community. Intermediary provisions are applied in respect of Belize and Montserrat.

*5. Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)*

14. OECS, established in 1981, is the continuation of the former Eastern Caribbean Common Market (ECCM). It includes the following members: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The agreement establishing OECS incorporated ECCM provisions, namely, the common external tariff and free trade among the member States.

## *C. Asia*

*1. Arab Co-operation Council (ACC)*

15. ACC was established by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the Republic of Yemen on 16 February 1989. The main aim of the ACC is to be a more effective forum for economic co-operation and integration among the Arab countries, thus geographical proximity is not a prerequisite for membership. For this purpose, the ACC aims to promote among its member States the co-ordination and harmonization of major economic policies such as financial, customs and trade, industrial and agricultural.

*2. Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)*

16. GCC, established in May 1981, includes the following member countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The GCC established a programme of social, industrial and trade development. In the field of trade, the intra-GCC movement of goods has been fully liberalized since 1983 in respect of agricultural and industrial products originating in the member countries, provided that the local value added amounts to at least 40 per cent of the total products value. A common external tariff on foreign goods has also been adopted by most GCC member countries.

*3. Economic Co-operation Organization (ECO)*

17. ECO, established in July 1964 as the Regional Co-operation for Development (RCD), includes Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Turkey. ECO established a MFN-based multilateral trade agreement and a clearing house. The member countries also apply bilateral trade agreements amongst themselves.

*4. Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)*

18. ASEAN, established in August 1967, includes six member States: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The basic agreement on preferential trading arrangements was concluded in February 1977. This agreement provides for the adoption of various measures to stimulate and expand intra-ASEAN trade, including the extension of tariff preferences, the liberalization of non-tariff measures, long-term quantity contracts, purchase finance support at preferential interest rates, and preferences in ASEAN government procurement. Since 1984, the ASEAN has applied, in principle, a 20-25 per cent across-the-board tariff preference to imports of ASEAN origin, subject to national exception lists. Member countries further agreed to enlarge these preferences gradually up to 50 per cent. The ASEAN also applies a preferential price margin in government procurement from third countries (subject to a ceiling). The ASEAN preferential trading arrangement is presently being improved.

*5. Bangkok Agreement*

19. The Bangkok Agreement, established in July 1975, includes the following member States: Bangladesh, India, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Lao People's Democratic Republic. This preferential trade agreement covers generally applicable tariff preferences for selected products contained in national schedules of concessions as well as some non-extendable concessions applied exclusively in favour of least developed member States. A standing committee monitors the implementation and further development of the Agreement. Member States launched a second round of negotiations which was completed in May 1990 and has resulted in an increase in the depth of trade preferences, an enlargement of the products coverage and the adoption of decisions to extend trade co-operation to cover other trade measures.

### *D. Interregional*

*1. Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU)/Arab Common Market (ACM)*

20. CAEU, established in April 1964, includes the following members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Republic of Yemen. CAEU concentrates its activities on trade, customs matters, industrial co-operation, harmonization of planning and infrastructure development. Amongst its main instruments, CAEU has created the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), in April 1977, and the the Arab Common Market (ACM), in August 1964, which includes Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Yemen. The main objective of CAEU and ACM is to promote Arab economic integration and the liberalization and development of trade amongst member States.

*2. Tripartite Agreement*

21. The Trade Expansion and Economic Co-operation Agreement between Egypt, India and Yugoslavia came into force in April 1968. The products included in a common list established under the Agreement are granted tariff preferences in trade amongst the participating countries. The aim of the Agreement is to strengthen mutual economic co-operation among the three countries.

*3. GATT Protocol*

22. The Protocol relating to trade negotiations among developing countries, sponsored by GATT, was signed on December 1971. Each of the seventeen signatories, namely, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Israel, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, grants trade preferences to other participating countries on goods included in its list of concessions.

## II. Other arrangements

### *A. Africa*

*1. Comité permanent consultatif du Maghreb (CPCM)*

23. CPCM, established in 1964, includes Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. CPCM carries out the work entrusted to it by the Conference of Maghreb Ministers. The CPCM promotes trade and economic co-operation among members States mainly through bilateral channels and sectoral activities.

*2. Council of the Entente*

24. The Council of the Entente, established in May 1959, includes the following member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Togo. The objectives of the Council are to harmonize and strengthen the policies and economies of member States on a basis of friendship, fraternity and solidarity. The activities of the Council centre around two institutions: the Mutual

Aid and Loan Guaranty Fund, established in 1966, which guarantees loans and contributes to economic development; and the Economic Community for Livestock and Meat, established in 1970, for the purpose of organizing close co-operation amongst member States, as well as with neighbouring countries, in respect of problems connected with the production, processing and marketing of livestock and meat. In addition, some specialized committees and training centres have been set up.

*3. Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CLISS)*

25. CLISS, established in September 1973, includes the following countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The objectives of CLISS are to co-ordinate all actions to combat recurrent drought and its consequence at the subregional level; to make the international community aware of the problems caused by the drought; to mobilize resources in order to finance the programme defined by member States as part of the campaign to combat the drought; and to implement actions of subregional significance likely to strengthen co-operation among its member States in their efforts to combat the drought and develop the Sahel.

*4. Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)*

26. The treaty establishing LCBC was signed in May 1964 by Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. The functions or the Commission are: to collect, evaluate and disseminate information on proposals made by contracting parties; to recommend plans for common projects and joint research programmes; to maintain liaison with member States with a view to promoting more effective use of the water; to draw up common rules regarding navigation; and to promote the settlement of disputes. In addition, in 1973, the contracting parties signed an agreement establishing the Lake Chad Basin Commission Development Fund. Its aim is to finance the planning, preparation and implementation of development projects, and the repayment of loans contracted by the Commission.

*5. Niger Basin Authority*

27. The Authority replaces the River Niger Commission which was set up in 1964. The Convention establishing the Niger River Basin Authority was signed in November 1980 by Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. The general objective of the Authority is to promote co-operation among member States and to ensure the integrated development of the Niger basin in all fields by making use of all its resources. Functions of the Authority include: water control and utilization; infrastructure development; environmental monitoring and preservation; and compilation of statistics and planning.

*6. Organization for the Planning and Development of the Kagera Basin (OKB)*

28. The treaty establishing the OKB was signed in 1977 by Burundi, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. OKB's objective is to concern itself with all matters relating to activities conducted in the Kagera basin. Stress is laid on the utilization of resources, transport and communications. The Organization is also concerned with foreign trade, industrial development, protection of the environment, tourism, agricultural development, stock-breeding and fisheries.

*7. Gambia River Development Organization (OMVG)*

29. OMVG, established in June 1978, includes Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Senegal. The objectives of OMVG are to promote and co-ordinate studies and works to develop the Gambia River, and to carry out any technical and economic mission that member States entrust to it.

*8. Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)*

30. OMVS replaced the Organization of Senegal River States which was dissolved in 1971. The Convention establishing OMVS was signed in March 1972 by Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. The main objectives of OMVS are to implement the convention relating to the status of the Senegal River, to promote and co-ordinate studies and works to harness the resources of the Senegal River

Basin in member States, and to carry out such technical and economic missions as member States entrust to it.

*9. Authority for the Integrated Development of the Liptako-Gourma Region*

31. The Authority, established in June 1971, includes Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. It aims to promote the effective use and development of the energy, agricultural, grazing, water and mineral resources of the Liptako-Gourma region.

*10. Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)*

32. The Commission, established in 1982, includes Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles.[1] The objectives of the IOC are: to develop economic, commercial and technical co-operation; and to encourage fruitful co-operation in cultural, legal, scientific and social affairs.

### *B. Latin America and the Caribbean*

*1. Caribbean Development Co-operation Committee (CDCC)*

33. CDCC was set up in November 1975 as a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the Caribbean region. The following countries are members of CDCC: Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The functions of the CDCC are: firstly, to act as a co-ordinating body for development and co-operation activities in the Caribbean region and, secondly, to act as an advisory and consultative body of the ECLAC secretariat for Caribbean affairs.

*2. Latin American Economic System (SELA)*

34. The Panama Agreement establishing SELA was signed in October 1975. The parties signatories to this treaty are: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua , Panama, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. SELA is responsible for promoting regional co-operation in Latin America to achieve the integral, self-sustaining and independent development of its region.

*3. Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)*

35. OLADE, established by the Lima Agreement in September 1973, includes the following member countries: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. OLADE's objectives are the integration, production, conservation, utilization, distribution and protection of energy resources of the region.

*4. River Plate Basin System*

36. The River Plate Basin System, established in April 1969, includes Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It aims to promote, through joint action, the harmonious development and physical integration of the River Plate Basin which has a surface area of approximately 3 million square kilometers.

*5. Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation*

37. The treaty, established in 1978, includes the following member countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. The objectives of the Treaty are the promotion of the harmonious development of the Amazonian territories, perservation of the environment, national utilization of the natural resources of the area, and the full integration of these

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[1] France become a member of IOC, but the protocol of accession specifies that the aim was to facilitate the integration of the French Overseas Department of Reunion into the IOC.

territories in the respective national economies. To achieve these objectives, the Treaty provides that member States shall undertake joint efforts and activities and, in particular, exchange information and conclude agreements and working arrangements.

## *C. ASIA*

### *1. South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC)*

38. SAARC, established in 1983, includes the following member countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The objectives of SAARC include: accelerating economic growth in the region; promoting and strengthening collective self-reliance; strengthening co-operation with other developing countries; strengthening co-operation amongst member States in international forums on matters of common interests, and co-operating with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes. SAARC has recently adopted decisions to consider matters relating to trade co-operation.

## *D. INTERREGIONAL*

### *1. African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of Countries (ACP)*

39. The Convention establishing the ACP Group was signed in June 1975. Current membership includes 68 countries: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Togo, Tongo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The ACP Group is an instrument for intra-group co-operation between African, Caribbean and Pacific States on one hand, and the member States of the European Economic Community on the other hand, in the fields of trade, industrial and financial co-operation and technical assistance.

### *2. League of Arab States*

40. The League of Arab States, established in 1945, includes the following members: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Yemen. The League of Arab States endeavours to promote economic co-operation among the Arab States.

### *3. Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)*

41. OIC was created in 1967 while the Secretariat of the Organization was established in 1971. Current members include: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Yemen. One of the main objectives of OIC is to consolidate the socio-economic development of its members through economic and technical co-operation.